

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) A secondary battery comprising an electrode assembly in which a strip-shaped positive electrode plate and a strip-shaped negative electrode plate are spirally wound with a strip-shaped separator interposed therebetween,

said positive electrode plate comprising a positive electrode current collector and a positive electrode material mixture layer carried on said positive electrode current collector, and

said negative electrode plate comprising a negative electrode current collector and a negative electrode material mixture layer carried on said negative electrode current collector,

wherein said positive electrode plate has, in a vicinity of a first end at an initial winding side, an exposed portion of said positive electrode current collector having said positive electrode material mixture layer not formed thereon, and a positive electrode lead connected to said exposed portion, and

wherein a first winding turn outwardly adjacent to a connecting portion of said positive electrode lead with said separator interposed therebetween, and a second winding turn outwardly adjacent to said first winding turn with said separator interposed therebetween, comprise a portion of said negative electrode plate carrying said negative electrode material mixture layer, and comprise a portion of said positive electrode current collector having said positive electrode material mixture layer not formed thereon.

2. (Original) The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein a third winding turn outwardly adjacent to said second winding turn with said separator interposed therebetween comprises a portion of said positive electrode plate carrying said positive electrode material mixture layer.